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MOREHEAD, KENTUCKY

ONLINE



After a first-game win the MSU football team talks about high hopes for the season.

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LIFE & ARTS



MSU Greeks help build children's playground for local shelter.

page 4

SPORTS



The MSU volleyball team win the Comfort Inn and Suites Invitational at home defeating Indiana State, Western Illinois and Lipscomb.

page 5

NEWS

New board members appointed

Three new members joined Morehead State University's Board of Regents on Aug. 20.

Dr. Ron Morrison, professor of English, Michael Harmon, Student Government Association president and Cheryl Lewis, an attorney, took their oath during the first board meeting of the semester.

MSU sends statements by e-mail

Morehead State University will stop sending billing statements to students by regular mail. In an e-mail sent to all students the university informed it would send all statements by e-mail replacing the letters sent out previously.

Students can also access their bills online through the Datatel System.

U.S. News ranks university top 25

U.S. News and World Report ranked Morehead State University at place 24 among master's programs at public universities in the south, tied with North Georgia State.



Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer

About 150 cars have been towed on campus during the first two weeks of the semester. New rules and higher parking fees were introduced in August.

Locked up

Higher fees, more towing with parking changes

CARLO ANGERER — Editor

Students and faculty have experienced higher parking fees and fines along with increased towing this semester as a result of a plan by MSU administrators to finance future parking garages.

Last year students and faculty paid \$50 for a permit allowing them to park north of U.S. 60. That fee has jumped to \$120, while permits for south of U.S. 60 rose from \$35 to \$60.

The biggest changes came on University Boulevard. The faculty and staff parking spots were converted to numbered and reserved parking spots costing \$360 and strictly monitored by university police.

"It's just a temporary job," parking assistant Lee Blevins said as he looked up the university's impound lot. Just minutes before, a towing service had brought in another car — one of about 150 cars towed during the first two weeks of school.

Blevins, wearing a yellow vest and armed with a phone to call in a tow truck, monitors the reserved parking spots on University Boulevard every day.

Permits for these spots and reserved spaces on the Third Street lot between Lappin Hall and the Rowan County Board of Education sold for more than seven times the price these spots cost faculty and staff a year ago.

Marshall Chapman, a geology professor, bought a permit to park in the Third Street Lot. He would rather pay \$120 for the reserved spot but said, "that's not going to happen." Chapman said he decided to get the reserved space to make sure he has a spot when he arrives on campus every day and in case of emergency.

"I need to be close to the office, because I'm at the fire department and I wouldn't get there soon enough if I had to park farther away," he said.

Faculty member Malinda McMurtry reserved a spot on the same lot.

"The whole (parking) system is broken," she said.

McMurtry looks at her van and across the street to non-reserved spaces.

"Those are too narrow, so it's either pay for a reserved space or damage my car."

Mike Walters, vice president for administration and fiscal services, also purchased a reserved spot.

"I think the system works," he said. Walters oversees university funds and said all revenues from the parking system will go into the general fund and no separate fund has been set up for parking fees.

Walters said money from the general fund would be reallocated to benefit the parking system.

"Most of the revenue will go toward new parking structures," he said, adding, "Some of the revenues have been used to do paving and restructuring."

The university has to finance its parking facilities because the state does not provide money toward parking.

"We would finance bonds, that could be paid off over 20 years, so that we would not have to come up with the total cost in the first year," he said.

"Parking garages are very expensive to build," Walters said. "The latest numbers we have show that it could cost as much as \$18,000 to \$20,000 per parking space."

SEE PARKING — page 2

Student injured in 26-foot fall

CARLO ANGERER — Editor

A Morehead State sophomore is in fair condition at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington a week after he fell from the third floor banister down to the first floor atrium of the Adron Doran University Center.

Ross Timothy Healy, 19, of Fort Thomas, sustained arm, pelvis and head injuries when he fell 26 feet at about 10 p.m. on Aug. 20.

Healy, a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, was leaving a fraternity event on

the third floor of ADUC, Vice President of Student Life Madonna Weathers said.

Morehead State Police Chief James Sparks said Healy attempted to slide down the banister from the third to the second floor. About half way down, he fell to the right and all the way to the bottom floor.

"Witnesses told us that he was able to catch himself briefly," Sparks said. "It could have easily been a fatal accident."

Healy was immediately transported to St. Claire

SEE FALL — page 2

Initiative asks for drinking age 18

RACHAEL HILL — Managing Editor

Chancellors and presidents of several universities and colleges across the country in July launched an initiative to reopen debate on the legal drinking age. They want it lowered to 18.

In 1984 Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act, which requires states to prohibit the sale and public possession of alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.

The act penalizes states with a minimum age lower than 21 by withholding 10 percent of their federal highway funding.

The Amethyst Initiative wants to change that.

According to the initiative's web site, the purpose is not to set a specific policy change but to open a debate; it is an attempt to deal with

binge drinking and other alcohol related problems.

Michelle Webb, substance abuse, prevention and treatment counselor at MSU, said lowering the drinking age is not going to decrease binge drinking, but is more likely to have the opposite effect.

"They will think if it's legal to drink it must be okay to drink," Webb said.

She said binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks for men and four or more drinks for women in one sitting.

The initiative states that the 21-year age limit isn't working and all who have signed on share this opinion. Presidents and chancellors from 129 U.S. universities and colleges have signed the initiative, as of Sept. 3.

Webb said Murray State's president, Randy Dunn,

SEE AGE — page 2

New police chief wants officers to better connect with campus

The cop, your friend

CARLO ANGERER — Editor

Police cruiser days are not completely over, but MSU students will see many more officers on bike and foot patrols this year.

That is the plan of new



James Sparks MSU police chief

MSU Police Chief James

"Matt" Sparks.

After taking a look at the work of the police force during the summer, his first months on the job, Sparks said he wants to ensure better communication between his officers and the campus community.

"Our guys will try to be more involved with students," he said. "I worked all over the state and one thing crucial about law enforcement is the support of the community."

Sparks said he wants MSU officers in residence halls more often,

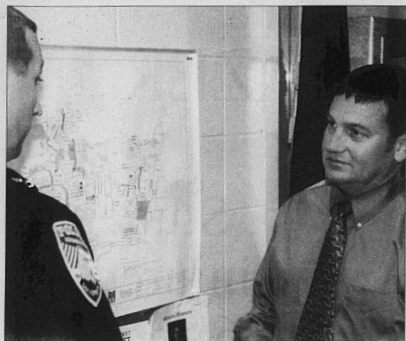
SEE POLICE — page 2



Source: MSU Police Dept., The Michael Minger Act Report for 2008
Activity reported for calendar year 2007

The MSU Police Department released the 2007 crime report last week. Complete statistics can be accessed at the police department's web site.

Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer



Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer

Assistant Police Chief James Frazier talks to James Sparks who was hired in April to head the MSU police department.

POLICE

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to educate students about property theft, parking regulations and other issues.

He also wants to add more foot and bike patrols, Sparks said this would make it easier for students to interact with police officers. It also could save on gas consumption. Sparks hopes to provide exact savings figures by the end of the fiscal year.

"We always look at how to save money," he said. "Looking at the budget, there's enough so we can operate efficiently."

Theft is the most reported crime on the MSU campus. According to the police department's crime report for 2007, 59 thefts were reported to campus police.

Freshmen, especially, are likely to be victims of theft as they are more likely to leave purses and bags unsupervised, Vice President for Student Life Madonna Weathers said.

"Students should not leave things lying around," she said. "Some are just waiting for an opportunity to commit a crime."

Many students cannot identify their property if it is stolen, Weathers said. She urges students to make a note of serial numbers, which can help identify stolen property.

Sparks said Morehead State's campus, overall, is one of the safest in the state.

In observing summer emergency drills held with other local emergency services, Sparks said it was evident the department is equipped and trained properly.

Sparks said he is excited to work in his hometown again.

Weathers said, "I am very pleased with Chief Sparks, how he has acclimated."

Sparks started his tenure as police chief in April after a hiring process that included multiple interviews and public forums with the final candidates.

After 21 years with the Kentucky State Police, Sparks retired last September and went to work for Energy Management Services. He said the money was "outstanding," but in the end his passion for law enforcement won out.

"My heart is in law enforcement," he said. "Not once in 21 years did I get up and dread going to work. I knew when I got into police work, it was something I would do for the rest of my life."

PARKING

continued from page 1

The university would still have to have authorization in the state budget for the project. Walters said the earliest it could be voted on would be during the 2010 legislative session. By then MSU administrators want to engage consultants to find the appropriate location and size for the structures.

Current plans are to have the first parking garage constructed on the east side of campus to serve the dormitories and then one on the west side, mainly to serve faculty, staff and commuters.

Students interviewed by the Trail Blazer, are split over the university's decision to raise parking fees.

Christina Crank said, "The prices are high, but it's for

a whole year. I guess it's a good thing, if it's for more parking."

Tyler Hieneman does not mind the increase if it improves parking.

"Sometimes it is kind of hard to (find a parking spot), but it's like that everywhere."

For Nora Warren, parking on campus is adequate, but expensive.

"If the money can improve parking, then the price increase is good," she said.

Vice President of Student Life Madonna Weathers said the timing of the fee increase is unfortunate in conjunction with the changing in the tuition structure, which raised overall costs for the majority of students.

Still, she is optimistic. "I think students understand in the whole state of things, our fees have been among the

lowest in the state."

Prohibiting freshmen from parking on the main campus, common policy on many campuses, was not discussed before the recent changes.

"We had done this in the past, but we want to treat all students equal," Weathers said.

University Police are the ones who are now faced with the work of reinforcing the new rules. Police Chief Matt Sparks believes in the end the plan will work out fine.

"There is plenty of parking, but it's not always close where (students and faculty) want to go," he said.

Assistant Police Chief James Frazier is sympathetic to the students' plight.

"It would be the greatest thing if we didn't have to tow another single car this year," he said.

Janet Miller contributed to this story.



Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer

MSU parking assistant Lee Blevins locks the impound lot last week after another car has been towed there.

AGE

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is the only college president in Kentucky to sign the initiative.

According to the American Medical Association, the current legal drinking age saves the lives of more than a thousand youths each year.

According to the AMA, several studies conducted in the 1970s found that the number of teens involved in motor vehicle crashes increased significantly when the minimum drinking age was lowered, as did injury and deaths rates.

According to the AMA, even though many


youths drink, they drink less, and fewer alcohol-related injuries and deaths occur.

Some MSU students say they think the drinking age should be lowered.

Freshman Chelsea Lloyd said, "If you are 18 and can serve in the army why shouldn't you be able to drink a beer or two."

Alumnus Amber Stewart said, "Some people at that age — I don't feel are mature enough to handle drinking but I think you should be able to make that decision for yourself."

Many major public health organizations, including the American Medical Association, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Board support the higher drinking age.



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Debbie Goff, L.M.T.

FALL

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Regional Medical Center and later the same night was transferred to the University of Kentucky Medical Center where he was listed in critical condition.

Sparks said university Police questioned witnesses at the scene.

Some indicated Healy had been drinking off campus earlier in the day, Sparks said.

No blood or alcohol breath tests were done to determine if Healy was intoxicated, he said.

"There is no information of how much alcohol was in his system," Sparks said.

He said university police have closed the investigation, which was handled as an accident.

Members of Pi Kappa Alpha contacted by The Trail Blazer declined to comment on the accident and said only that their president Brandon Runyon would discuss the incident.

Runyon did not return phone calls from The Trail Blazer.

EDITORIAL

Parking fee policy handled poorly

Parking has been a recurring problem at MSU and on campuses of a majority of universities around the country. No wonder – the United States is the nation most obsessed by and dependent on automobiles.

Despite skyrocketing gas prices, the constant need for mobility and the demand for cars and places to park them has not slowed.

It is likely the desire for parking spots at MSU will not subside in the near future. Rather it will rise as the university tries to attract more students to fulfill its goal to increase graduation numbers.

Paving more and more square feet of the narrow valley in which Morehead and this university are situated is not an aesthetically, nor environmentally sound solution. The erection of parking structures is the only viable option.

This summer's announcement from MSU administrators of a plan that would finance multi-level garages on campus in the near future did not sound too grave.

As the state legislature does not finance parking facilities, raising parking fees seemed to be the only option. But keeping track of those fees and their proper use, as promised, seems like a tall order.

Instead of depositing the parking fees into a fund set aside to finance parking structures in the future, all fees are going into the general fund – a fund that has been hit hard by state budget cuts in the past year. It seems obvious these parking fees are just another way to fill the budget void.

The money from parking fees, towing penalties and tickets should be put into a fund set aside solely to finance parking structures in the future.

Right now, MSU administrators say they intend to allocate money from the general fund to engage consultants to plan the parking facilities and, eventually, allocate funds to build the structures.

But it is the nature of money in the general fund to be used for whatever purpose most in need. Thus, there is no guarantee money generated from higher parking fees will actually be used for building parking structures.

There are other changes that could improve MSU's parking problem – all fairer and more economical for everyone concerned. For instance, why not allow students, faculty and staff to park free in the overflow parking lot south of US 60. It would be an incentive for people to use those parking spaces and make more room on the main campus.

Another option would be a policy, successfully implemented by many other colleges, requiring freshmen to park their cars in an overflow lot. This also would free up space on campus and be fairer to commuters.

The parking fee system instituted recently by administrators appears to be just another well-disguised raise in tuition and another deduction out of employees' paychecks.

Let us know your opinion!

The Trail Blazer welcomes reader responses. Letters should be 400 words or less and signed. Addresses and telephone numbers should be included (for verification purposes only). Letters must be received in Room 317 Breckinridge Hall or emailed to editor@trail-blazeronline.net by 4 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication. The Trail Blazer reserves the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity, brevity and legal considerations.

THE TRAIL BLAZER



COMMENTARY

Personalities overshadow issues



CARLO
ANGERER
Editor

Two months until the presidential election. Two months to make a decision on who to vote for. Two months to listen to John McCain and Barack Obama.

And two months listening to political pundits talking on the radio and on TV about which candidate would be the better commander-in-chief and which vice-presidential nominee is

best. This 24-hour analyzing of four individuals has gone over the limit of necessary political research.

Who cares if one candidate's name sounds Arabic?

Who cares how many homes the other one has?

Of course voters need to know how much political experience the potential next president has and his position on issues that significantly affect Americans. But anything beyond that is mostly just hot

air. This nation has far bigger problems than the personal issues of presidential candidates.

We are hit by the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, yet nobody is concentrating on how the political parties want to tackle the housing crisis, inflation or unemployment.

Millions of Americans don't have health insurance, but nobody has explained the Democratic or Republican plan to solve this problem.

And just in case the talking heads have forgotten, U.S. forces are still dying every day

in Iraq. The last time we heard about any concrete solutions to getting them out was during the primaries.

It's just about personalities now. Political TV shows have turned into something similar to Oprah – just not as successful.

In the past, both reporters and the public focused more on party platforms and not just on the candidates and their personal lives. They must get back to doing that. What's really at stake in this election is determining which candidates are most capable of finding solutions to problems that threaten the future of our nation.

Drinking age should be lowered



ALEXIS
DIAMOND
Staff Writer

Every day millions of Americans, who have spent several years voting, buying cigarettes, attending college, or starting families, belly up to the bar on their most anticipated 21st birthday, despite how many times they have enjoyed a drink before it was legal.

Now, seven states including Kentucky, have taken up the age-old debate on the drinking-age law. In response to an initiative put forth by some university administrators who believe lowering the drinking age to 18 would decrease binge drinking, a common problem among young college students

that leads to many alcohol-related injuries.

In 1984, a federal law passed making 21 the minimum age for purchasing or consuming alcohol, and any state not abiding by the law sacrificed 10 percent of its annual federal highway money. The states rethinking the age law must take this into consideration when voting, but a slight budget cut would not seem as bad if the age change saved lives, which is a major argument from proponents.

John McCandless, former president of Middlebury College in Vermont, developed Choose Responsibility, a non-profit organization devoted to lowering the legal drinking age. The group's primary goal is to promote more "balance, maturity, and common sense" among 18- and 20-year olds.

The legal age for alcohol pur-

chase and consumption should be lowered, but not because it might make young adults more responsible.

It should be lowered because they are going to drink when they want anyway. Despite strict laws and the threat of jail time or fines, those over 21 are still going to purchase alcohol for their friends and many parents are still going to let their under-21 kids drink.

Many people argue that other nations set the legal drinking age at 18 and they do not seem to have more problems. But, as evidenced by the rate of obesity in the United States, Americans seem to have a problem setting limits for themselves – leading to drug, food and alcohol addiction. Having the right to drink also will not end binge drinking – which depends on a person's habit and preference.

One group against lower-

ing the drinking age is Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). They argue changing the age will increase drunk driving fatalities, while others say it will decrease binge drinking or alcohol-related deaths. There is no way to accurately predict what will happen, but it is possible death rates might decrease if young adults didn't feel the need to sneak around.

It would not seem intelligent to allow 18-year olds to lawfully drink while still in high school. But decreasing the age by three years would allow more time for potential maturing, with the result of teens having learned their drinking limit before being thrown into the college scene.

There are many pros and cons to this issue. But whatever the outcome, teens will continue to drink as they please.

CAMPUS COMMENT

How do you feel about lowering the drinking age?

Many university presidents across the nation favor lowering the legal drinking age to 18.

The Trail Blazer asked readers about the proposal.



Louise
Jackson-
Brown
Freshman
Business
Marketing
Lexington, KY

"That would be good because some people who are underage drink anyway."



Jason Tucker
Freshman
Industrial
Technology
Covington, KY

"I think it is fine where it is. There's enough drunk driving. Why risk getting that out there sooner?"



Eric Jerde
Interim Chair
of Physical
Sciences
Menifee Co., KY

"I think lowering it is ok. It was 18 when I was a college student."



Brittany Hines
Freshman
General Business
and Computer Science
Cincinnati, OH

"I totally agree with lowering it. I'm 19 old enough to be for your country, you should be able to drink."

THE TRAIL BLAZER



Kate Jennings / The Trail Blazer

During the Aug. 28 Open Mic Night sponsored by the MSU Creative Writing Department, Alex Shulz, a senior English major reads his poem at the Folk Arts Center. Shawn Corbin, who acted as host for the event, said, "Literature for a generation is important. We seem to be moving away from literature into reality TV and bad music. Our answer is to be found in literature."

Students construct play area for local shelter

KATE JENNINGS - LIFE&ARTS EDITOR

When Jason Allen drove by the Gateway House Homeless Coalition, he felt a pang of sadness for the residents there, but most of all, the children who call it home.

"Misfortunes happen to a lot of people either by the choices you made, or the mistakes that you made," Allen said. But for the kids who had nothing to do, "It's not their fault they're homeless."

Allen, his brothers from the

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, along with several other campus sororities and fraternities and Gateway House Public Relations Director Tori Guruswamy, decided to do something for the 25 local kids at the shelter on Flemingsburg Road.

"Tori came up with the idea for the playground," case manager Jana Brown said. "She headed up the fundraising. It was her project."

Guruswamy recruited the fraternity by offering its members volunteer hours for building the playground, which was funded by private donations.

Allen said the playground, which was finished in July, took nearly 100 hours to complete and Brown estimates 20 students worked to finish it.

"The community and campus have been wonderful. They have been very supportive of the Gateway House," Smith said.

Last year, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty estimated that of the 3.5 million homeless in America, 1.35 million are children. In 2000, the National Coalition for the Homeless estimated that the average age of a homeless person is 9 years old. Gateway House director, Marilyn Smith said 50 percent of Gateway's current residents are children, up from 33 percent last year.

The playground was officially opened in a dedication ceremony on Aug. 14.

Allen said, "The playground was very frustrating to build. It was hot, it was hard work, but when all was said and done, I wouldn't trade it for anything because when you drive by and see a child swinging on a swing or sliding down a slide it makes it all worth it."



Members of the MSU Greek Community pose in the playground they built for the Gateway House.

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

- Sept. 5, 7 p.m.**
Sasha Colette and the Last Date concert at Zipo Campground
- Sept. 5, 10:20 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.** Ruth White, author of "Belle Prater's Boy" in Camden Carrol Library **5 p.m. and 7 p.m.** at CoffeeTree Books
- Sept. 6,**
Sasha Colette and the Last Date concert at Twin Knobs campground
- Sept. 10, 7 p.m.**
MSU/Community Orchestra Rehearsal (Musicians of all abilities welcome) Baird 117
- Sept. 11, 6 p.m.**
"Let Children Be Children" at The Kentucky Folk Art Center
- Sept. 11, 8 p.m.**
"Remembering 9/11" concert at Duncan Hall
- Sept. 12, 8:30 a.m.**
Blood Drive at Rowan County High School Library
- Sept. 12**
MSU Interdisciplinary Studies Fall Diversity Conference
- Sept. 16 and 17**
MSU Constitution Days

Eagle volleyball sweeps at home tournament

Owens Burns — Staff Writer

The Lady Eagle volleyball team opened its season last weekend, picking right where the team left off last season, by sweeping the Comfort Inn and Suites Invitational.

The Eagles hosted three talented teams in the tournament, Indiana State, Western Illinois, and Lipscomb, and beat all three.

The Lady Eagles first took on the Sycamores of Indiana State. MSU took the first set 25-19, only to lose a close second 25-23. After that it was all Morehead with the next two wins. The Eagles commanded the game with 54 kills to Indiana State's 38.

"The game was very important for us to win. We set the tone for the rest of the season," setter Katelyn Barbour said. "We were said to be good this season. Sometimes false hope can be bad, but it was good to win and live up to expectation."

MSU swept the Western Illinois Westwinds in only three sets to take the second game of the tournament.

The Lady Eagles outscored Western Illinois 75-57 in the three sets, not killing them 50 to 31, and adding on five blocks to seal the deal.

Sophomore outside hitter Kaitlin Craven led the Eagles in the second match with 14 kills and 10 digs. Senior setter Katelyn Barbour had eight kills and 23 assists.

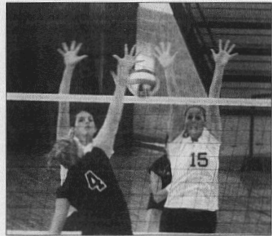
In the third and final match of the tournament MSU took on Lipscomb University. Even though the numbers favored LU, the consistency and teamwork of the Lady Eagles proved to be enough to beat the Bison in four very close sets.

Throughout the match, there were 43 tie scores and 17 lead changes, but with heavy hitting from girls Craven, Emma Keough, and Ashley Doscher, MSU was too good for Lipscomb.

With top-notch teamwork and tournament MVP Craven on their side, the Lady Eagles secured their spot as 2008 Comfort Inn and Suites Invitational Tournament champions.

MSU traveled to Lexington Tuesday. The team lost 3-1 to the Kentucky Wildcats.

This weekend the Lady Eagles will travel to South Carolina to play teams that include North Carolina Central, West Virginia, and Winthrop in the Winthrop Invitational Tournament.



Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer
The MSU volleyball team with its big blocks and heavy hitting is picked to finish first in the OVC.

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Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer
Senior halfback Erick Fitzpatrick is looking to push through Southern Virginia's defensive lineman Shea Owens.

MSU offense too hot to handle

Cody Evans — Staff Writer

Morehead State opened the 2008 football season at home Saturday evening with a convincing 49-6 victory over Southern Virginia. The Eagles compiled 439 yards of total offense while limiting the opposition to just 146 yards. With the exception of a single 80-yard pass play by Southern Virginia, the Eagle defense pretty much shut down the Knights of SVU.

Leading the MSU defensive were linebackers Wes McDermott and Tony Bachman, with five tackles each. Reserve defensive backs Quinton Daniels and Greg Taphouse each tallied an interception, and senior defensive leader David Hyland deflected three SVU passes.

Eagle Coach Matt Ballard called the performance "typical David Hyland."

The Eagle offense fared almost as well, scoring 31 unanswered points in the first half. A consistent ground game helped to relieve pressure from first-time, starting Quarterback Evan Sawyer. Eleven different Eagle backs carried the ball for a total of 306 yards and five touchdowns, including two scores by junior halfback Jerrod Pendleton.

Sawyer accounted for a net gain of 63 yards on the ground and a touchdown. Sawyer displayed a great deal of consistency in the passing game as well, completing 50 percent of his passes for 131 yards, 30 of which came on a second-quarter touchdown pass to receiver Nick Feldman.

"Evan looks good," Feldman said. "He's dangerous with his feet, and he keeps the other team on their toes."

Sawyer was forced to play his first start without the aid of left tackle Brad

Seger, who missed the game due to an undisclosed minor injury. Seger did see action in the game but was relocated to a reserve role, and worked mostly with backup quarterback Jared Phillips in the second half.

As the level of competition begins to stiffen over the remainder of the season, the challenge for Sawyer will be to maintain a consistent level of play and to focus on the small aspects of the game that are crucial to success.

He has the confidence of Coach Ballard.

"That's what he does best," Ballard said. "Coming into the ball game, I'd give him an A plus."

Ballard's faith in him mirrors that placed in his quarterback.

"This is 2008 and expectations are mighty high," Ballard said. "This team is going to go full throttle, and believe and expect to put themselves in a championship opportunity."

The quest for a championship will take the Eagles on the road next week to Moon Township, Pa., and a competitive Robert Morris team.

"It's going to be versus a very outstanding football team," Ballard said.

The Colonials defeated MSU last season 9-8 in a tightly contested game dominated by defense.

The defensive display from Saturday's game suggests the Eagles are capable of winning a low scoring defensive battle, but the offensive performance suggests they might not have to.



Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer
MSU Quarterback Evan Sawyer scores the first touchdown.

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Congrats to our newest members of Gamma Phi Beta



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